



8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC
Canada V5A 1S6

TEL: 778.782.3925
FAX: 778.782.5876

vpacad@sfu.ca
www.sfu.ca/vpacademic

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	September 28, 2009
FROM	Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic and Provost	PAGES	1/3
RE:	Update on Enrollments		

At the September 2009 meeting of Senate, Senator Colin Percival asked for an update on enrollments for the fall. He subsequently provided a more detailed request for some data and some explanations for exceeding the University's targets, as follows:

1. For each faculty, the number of domestic undergraduate students admitted, vs. the targets approved by Senate at the March 2009 meeting.
2. For each faculty, the number of international undergraduate students admitted, vs. the targets approved by Senate at the March 2009 meeting.
3. For each faculty, the entry GPA cutoffs used and (if possible) the average entry GPA.
4. For each faculty, the total undergraduate enrolment vs. the plan approved by Senate.
5. Anything else (e.g. retention rates, graduation rates, average number of credits taken per student) which you think has contributed.

The following data refers to the situation at the end of the first week of the fall 2009 semester.

2009/10 Enrollment Targets

Senate's approved targets for new domestic and international student intakes for 2009/10 are 5,467 and 608 respectively. The approved domestic and international program FTE targets for the year are 17,592 and 1,760 respectively. The international program FTE target is approximately 10% of the domestic target. A breakdown by Faculty is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: 2009/10 New Student Intake and Program FTE Targets

Faculty	New Student Intake Targets		Program FTE Targets	
	Domestic	International	Domestic	International
APSC	424	53	1,389	200
FASS	2,626	324	7,315	710
BUS	285	80	2,246	466
FCAT	425	78	1,672	186
EDUC	360	6	1,001	2
ENV	77	3	346	9

HSCI	204	11	600	18
SCI	1,066	53	2,949	168
Undeclared	-	-	74	1
SFU Total	5,467	608	17,592	1,760

Fall 2009 Enrollment Targets

The Fall 2009 allocations of the approved SFU targets are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Fall 2009 New Student Intake and Est. Program FTE Targets

Faculty	New Student Intake Targets		Program FTE Targets	
	Domestic	International	Domestic	International
APSC	356	34	582	77
FASS	1,810	170	3,093	276
BUS	246	51	889	172
FCAT	363	52	720	77
EDUC	208	2	339	0
ENV	50	2	145	5
HSCI	167	11	265	10
SCI	920	33	1,294	63
Undeclared	-	-	26	0
SFU Total	4,120	355	7,353	680

Fall 2009 Enrollment Actuals (ewk1)

Table 3 shows the actual enrollments for Fall 2009 and Table 4 shows the variance between Target and Actual. Based on end of week one actual enrollment, the international program FTE actual is 12% of domestic program FTE actual for the Fall term.

Table 3: Fall 2009 New Student Intake and Program FTE Actuals (ewk1 Actuals)

Faculty	New Student Intake Actuals		Program FTE Actuals	
	Domestic	International	Domestic	International
APSC	437	108	615	108
FASS	1,990	423	3,326	408
BUS	259	168	893	235
FCAT	419	64	777	79
EDUC	205	3	362	2
ENV	89	8	149	6
HSCI	357	41	325	23
SCI	783	55	1,276	79
Undeclared	3	1	2	0
SFU Fall Total*	4,541	870	7,725	941

*Column totals may not exactly sum up due to rounding.

Table 4: Fall 2009 Variance (ewk1 Actuals – Target)

Faculty	New Student Intake Variance		Program FTE Variance	
	Domestic	International	Domestic	International
APSC	81	74	32	31
FASS	180	253	233	133
BUS	13	117	4	63

FCAT	56	12	57	2
EDUC	-3	1	23	2
ENV	39	6	4	1
HSCI	190	30	60	13
SCI	-137	22	-17	16
Undeclared	3	1	-24	0
SFU Fall Total*	421	515	372	261
% SFU Target ¹	110%	245%	105%	138%

*Column totals may not exactly sum up due to rounding.

The entry GPA's were as follows:

- CMPT: 80%
- ENSC: 75%
- Business: 90%
- FCAT: 78%
- Environment: 78%
- Science: 78%
- Health Sciences: 75%
- FASS: 80%
- Education (BGS): 80%

These generally represent an increase over last year (75% except Business 85%) and the previous year (73% except Business 85%). We have therefore increased enrollments at a time when the entrance GPA has also risen. This has been achieved through increasing the yield rate – the percentage of applicants who eventually register as students – and by increasing the number of out-of-province registrants. It also appears that we have a slightly higher retention rate than expected, even though the percentage of students who are required to withdraw has increased slightly from about 1% (06/07) to 2.5% (08/09). It is possible that the RTW rate will now decline as the GPA minima are raised.

The same GPA is used for domestic and international students. Because the GPA distribution across those two populations is not the same, it is difficult to meet both domestic and international targets exactly. This is one of the reasons for increased international enrollments.

In the spring there were signs that we would exceed our targets. However, we decided not to make adjustments because of the many factors that have created uncertainty this year, including the following:

- a. the impact of a volatile economy on domestic enrollment
- b. widespread concern that international students would not arrive due to the recession
- c. the impact of the five new B.C. universities on enrollments
- d. the impact of the September adjustment to the provincial budget

The over-enrollment of new students has been compounded by higher than usual retention of continuing students (3% higher than expected for domestic students and 11% higher than expected for international). There is no evidence that students are graduating at different rates, and average credits taken do not seem to have changed.